(d) According to information maintained by the Deptt., excise duty collected on tractors and chassis of tractors fitted with engine during 1994-95 is provisionally placed at Rs. 51.87 crores.

Flights between Delhi and Guwahati

2108. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the reason for not operating daily flight between Delhi and Guwahati; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce daily flight between Delhi and Guwahati at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Due to shortage of operating crew, Indian Airlines has curtailed its services on the sector Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi from seven services to four services a week w.e.f. 19.6.1995.

(b) At present, Indian Airlines is not in a position to restore the withdrawn services due to crew constraints. However, M/s Jet Airways and M/s East West Airlines have schedules approved by the DGCA to operate daily flights on the sectors Delhi-Guwahati and Delhi-Calcutta-Guwahati respectively.

Merger of DESU Deb

2109. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 191 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st August, 1995, and state:

(a) whether the existing DESU would be eliminated or merged with the new SEB or Delhi Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, to what extent the mounting losses in DESU and pilferages etc., would be curbed by the setting up of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) The proposed Electricity Board for Delhi would be in place of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU).

(b) The formation of the Board and the modalities for its functioning would depend upon the completion of legal and administrative formalities. The new Board, when constituted would strive to curb the mounting losses and pilferages etc.

Proposal to ban advertisements showing sexual overtones on Television

2110. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban commercial advertisements showing sexual overtones on televison;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMAITON AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Doordarshan telecasts commercial advertisements as per the guidelines prescribed in the Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan. The Code inter-alia does not permit any advertisement which tends to glorify obscenity in any way or project a derogatory image of women. Furthermore, each advertiser on Doordarshan is required to ensue that the portrayal of the female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well established norms of good taste and decency.

Export of Handicrafts

2111. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great potential for export of handicrafts from the country at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India's share in total exports is only 2.83%; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such a low percentage?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India's share in the total world export of handicrafts has not increased at a faster rate because of competation from China and South East Asian countries.

Investigation in Gold Star Case

2112. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI has started further investigation into the gold star case as suggested by the Joint Parliamentary Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) CBI has completed further investigations in the Gold Star case as suggested by the JPC. On the basis of the enquiries conducted jointly by the CBI, SEBI, Department of Company Affairs and RBI, the final conclusion drawn by the CBI is that there has been no unauthorised diversion of funds from the Rights Issue for discharging any other liabilities. Therefore, no criminal offence is made out.

Cost per MW of Power Projects

2113. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thermal Power Project or a combined Cycle Gas Project do not cost more than Rupees 2 crore per MW, taking into account equipment cost alone;

(b) whether it is a fact that price at which power is supplied to the grid should not exceed 4.2 cents a unit; and

(c) whether Government have voted that multinationals are forming cartel to fleece India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The cost per MW of equipment alone is less then Rs. 2.00 crores in respect of the projects recently commissioned/under implementation and exceeds Rs. 2.00 crores in respect of new projects.

(b) Tarrif is a derivative of capital cost as approved by the Central Electricity Authority. Once the capital cost has been approved, it is calculated on the basis of principles (norms & parameters) notified by the Government in this regard from time to time.

(c) No, Sir.

Power capacity addition

2114. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest assessment of capacity addition likely to be achieved in the Eighth Plan programme and the names of projects with anticipated capacities likely to get commissioned in the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether any draft programme has been prepared for the capacity addition in the Ninth Plan and the names of projects and the capacity included therein;

(c) if so, what power supply position is anticipated by the end of the Ninth Plan, State-wise based on the proposed Ninth Plan programme; and

(d) if not, by when such a programme likely to be formulated?